(ii) The Scheme had originally envisaged distribution of eleven commodities namely Arhar Dal, Gram Dal, Masoor Dal, Urad Whole, Salt, Tea, Toilet Soap, Detergent Cake, Exercise Notebooks, Edible Oil and Toothpaste through the existing PDS retail outlets and the retail outlets of the State Cons. Coop. Federations, State Civil Supplies Corporations and the Consumer Cooperative Societies functioning in the States;

(iii) The NCCF has however agreed to include four items of common need for adding to the above list of eleven items provided the State Governments/State Agencies agree to place orders for adequate volume for the identified items;

(iv) The NCCF has agreed to supply the goods in convenient consumer packs at places identified by the State Governments/ State Agencies as per agreed terms;

(v) It is felt that the Scheme will have a salubrious effect in containing the retail prices of these essential commodities and other commodities in the market and will also help in improving the viability of the existing fair price shops under the Public Distribution System.

Export of foodgrains

†224 SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrains were exported from the country during 2001-02 and upto the month of December, 2002-03;

(b) if so, the quantity of wheat and rice exported during the above periods;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Food Corporation of India had to suffer losses on these export; and

(d) if so, the amount of losses suffered during the above periods?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the published figures (provisional) of Directorate.General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Ministry of Commerce, 26.49 lakh MTs of wheat and 21.98 lakh MTs of rice had been exported during the year 2001-02. A quantity of 24.67 lakh MTs of wheat and 25.18 lakh MTs of rice were exported during 2002-03 (upto November, 2002).

(c) Food Corporation of India handles allocation of foodgrains from the Central Pool for export to liquidate stocks over the buffer norms.

Export of foodgrains from other than the Central Pool has no financial implications for the FCI.

(d) Does not arise.

Reduction in foodgrains stock

†225. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrains stock in the country has been reduced to 50 metric tons which is quite low as compared to that of previous two years.

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a huge quantity of foodgrains has been lifted during the current year; and

(d) if so, quantum of foodgrains lifted from Food Corporation of India for domestic consumption during the first ten months of the year 2002-03 as compared to the same period during the previous year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.